(b) A number of Hon'ble Members of Parliament have written enlisting different suggestions with regard to terms and conditions governing the agreement for bookstalls held by M/s. A.H. Wheeler and Co. Names of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament are indicated in the enclosed statement (*See* below). Suggestions received are given due consideration.

Statement

Monopoly of A.H. Wheeler and Co.

S. No.	Names of Hon'ble M.Ps.
1.	Shri Manikrao Hodalya Gavit
2.	Shri N. (Karul) Murugesan
3.	Shri Bapu Hari Chaure
4.	Shri R. Dhanush Kodi Athithan
5.	Shri Shailendra Mehto
6.	Shri Vishwanath Shastri
7.	Shri Birbal
8.	Shri Digvijaya Singh
9.	Shri Arjun Singh Yadav
10.	Shri Sumjibhai Damor
11.	Shri Nawal Kishore Rai
12.	Shri Anand Prakash Gautam
13.	Shri Manjey Lal
14.	Shri Shanti Tyagi
15.	Shri Surya Narain Singh
16.	Shri Vithalbhai M. Patel
17.	Shri V.K. Yadav
18.	Shri Vishwas Rao R. Patil
19.	Shri Mumtaz Ansari
20.	Shri S.R. Bommai
21.	Shri Gaya Singh
22.	Shri Mohan Singh
23.	Shri Bhubaneshwar Pd. Mehta
24.	Dr. R. Sridharan
25.	Shri Tej Narayan Singh
26.	Shri K.M. Madhukar
27.	Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh.

Static Fire Brigade Stations

1233. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are winding up their static Fire Brigade Stations as part of their new austerity measures; and

(b) if so, what are the details of their new austerity measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In pursuit of austerity measures adopted by the Railways, condemnations of steam locos, closing down of steam sheds, closure of redundant yards, energy conservation measures, close monitoring of expenditure and optimum utilisation of assets etc. have been taken up.

Suspension of Train from Rangia to Murkong Selek (Assam)

1234. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the only fast moving train from Rangia to Murkong Selek (Assam) has been suspended;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the train is likely to be restored; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA) : (a) to (d) 5713/5714 Arunachal Express temporarily cancelled due to law and order problem in Assam has since been restored w.e.f. 15-4-93.

Outlays of Railways

1235. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of total outlays of Railways being spent on passenger amenities;

(b) the details of various schemes to increase passenger amenities under implementation by the Railways;

(c) whether Government are reconsidering its decision to increase compartments to general passengers and also allow these passengers in sleeper coaches during day time;

(d) what are the facilities being provided by the Railway on the model Railway Stations;

(e) whether any machinery exist to ensure that these facilities are really provided to the passengers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Book Stalls at Railway Stations

1236. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of book/news stalls run on Railway platforms by M/s. A.H. Wheeler as well as M/s. Higginbothoms in the country; and

(b) what are the terms and conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA) : (a) As per information furnished by Zonal Railways, M/s. A.H. Wheeler and Co. and M/s. Higgin-bothoms are managing, at present, 370 and 59 bookstalls, respectively on Railways.

(b) Terms and conditions are governed by various clauses of the agreements entered with the above said bookstall contractors, including that of payment of royalty @ 3% of their annual sales turnover, tenure of contract being 9 years, sole selling right allowed on stations/ platforms constructed before 31-12-1975, issue of selected passes, etc.

Connecting Ludhiana with Chandigarh by Rail Line

1237. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for connecting Ludhiana with Chandigarh; if so, what is the present position of this proposal;

(b) whether it is a fact that Punjab Government is pressing hard for connecting Chandigarh with the rest of Punjab;

(c) whether surveys have been done in this connection and if so, what is the latest position in this regard; and

(d) when Government propose to meet this long standing demand of Punjab as Punjab has returned to normalcy and people are awaiting action by Government to fulfil their long standing demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA) : (a) Updating of survey of Rajpura-Chandigarh New Line has been included in the Railway Budget for 1993-94.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Survey for Ludhiana-Chandigarh line (95 kms.) was carried out in 1973. The cost of this new BG line